

**MEDIA RELEASE
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)**

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'Failed state' perception or reality?

"The description by the prophet Joel of adversity coming in as a swarm of locusts and completely destroying the harvest, seems to portray events taking place in our country, which supports the concept of South Africa fast becoming a 'failed state.'" So says Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), in reaction to the latest spate of adverse news which once again highlights the inability of our present government to govern effectively.

"A political party can no longer be accused of cheap political rhetoric should they point out all the evidences of a 'failed state'. There are reports of a huge backlog in forensics: 2 years, for drunken driving blood tests, in the SAPS forensic laboratory; the handling of the current strikes, with the unions flexing their muscles and refusing to budge while the government is hamstrung and unable, due to present legislation, to take proper action. Then there is the prospect of disastrous matric results this year, the effects of these strikes on aids sufferers and hospital patients in general. All of these, combined, make us realize that if the country is not yet a full fledged 'failed state', it will soon be if matters are not turned around.

"In order for an economy to properly flourish, there must be sufficient optimism. Yet, day after day bad news like locusts swarms, arrives. The reasons given by Joel were dishonest practices and corruption which were polluting the land."

Mislukte staat: persepsie of realiteit

"Die beskrywing van die profeet Joël oor teenspoed wat soos opeenvolgende swerms sprinkane op die land toesak en alles verteer lyk of dit nou net so op Suid-Afrika van toepassing gemaak kan word, en ondersteun die gedagte dat die land vinnig op die status van 'n mislukte staat afstuur." So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) in reaksie op die jongste vlaag nuus wat opnuut negatief op die bestuur van die land reflekteer.

"n Politieke party kan nie meer daarvan beskuldig word dat dit goedkoop politieke retoriek gebruik wanneer dit na al die tekens van 'n mislukte staat verwys nie. daar is berigte dat die SAPD se forensiese laboratorium 'n twee jaar agterstand het met bloedtoetse vir dronkbestuur het. Die manier waarop die staking ontwikkel met vakbonde wat die rug styf maak, en die regering wat gekniehalter word om danksy wetlike beperkings dit aan te spreek en die impak op die komende matriekeksamen, die lot wat die stakings op Vigspasiënte en ander pasiënte het dra by om te besef as dit nie op 'n volbloed mislukte staat dui nie, is dit binnekort so as sake nie gou omgekeer word nie."

"n Algemene gees van optimisme is nodig om 'n ekonomiese te laat floreer. Ongelukkig kom die slechte nuus in vlae soos die allesverterende sprinkane waarna Joël verwys. Die redes wat Joël destyds vir die teenspoed aangedui het, was oneerlike praktyke en korruksie wat die land besoedel het."